



US010502599B2

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Rogers et al.**

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 10,502,599 B2**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Dec. 10, 2019**

(54) **POLYMERIC MAGNETIC FLOWMETER  
FLOW BODY ASSEMBLY**

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

(71) Applicant: **Rosemount Inc.**, Chanhassen, MN (US)

JP 53-100252 2/1980  
JP 10-019617 A 1/1998

(Continued)

(72) Inventors: **Steven B. Rogers**, Minnetonka, MN (US); **Michael J. Mayer**, Waconia, MN (US); **Bruce D. Rovner**, Minneapolis, MN (US); **Michael J. Mikolichek**, Farmington, MN (US); **Erik D. Anderson**, Chanhassen, MN (US); **Nicholas W. Bond**, Belle Plaine, MN (US); **Chad T. Weigelt**, Minneapolis, MN (US)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

International Search Report and Written Opinion for International Patent Application No. PCT/US2017/023291, dated Jun. 26, 2017, 17 pages.\*

(Continued)

(73) Assignee: **Rosemount Inc.**, Shakopee, MN (US)

*Primary Examiner* — Harshad R Patel

(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Christopher R. Christenson; Kelly, Holt & Christenson PLLC

(21) Appl. No.: **15/086,826**

(22) Filed: **Mar. 31, 2016**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2017/0284845 A1 Oct. 5, 2017

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**G01F 1/58** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**  
CPC ..... **G01F 1/588** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**  
None  
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

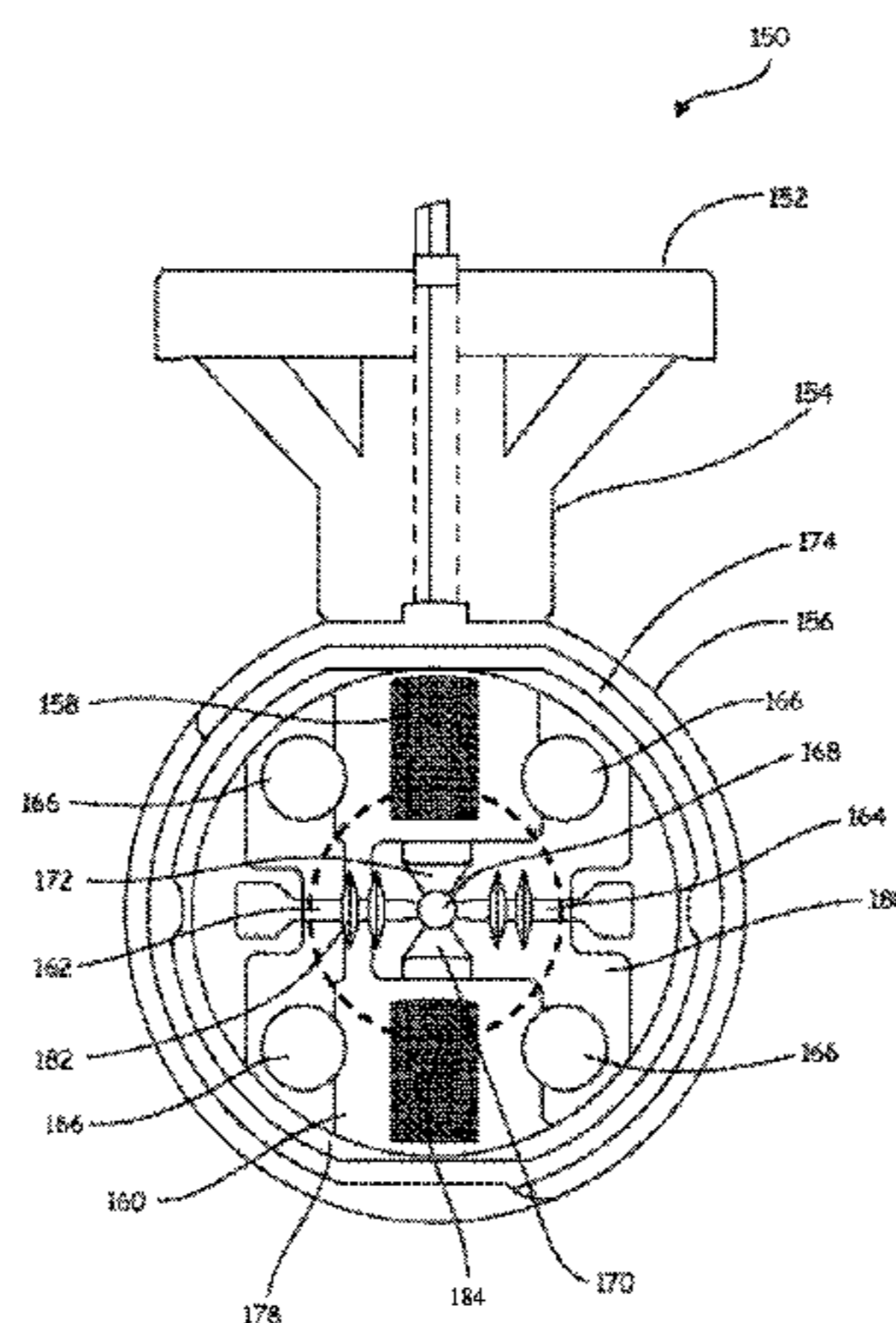
4,098,118 A 7/1978 Schmoock  
4,269,071 A \* 5/1981 Wada ..... G01F 1/584  
73/861.12  
4,773,275 A \* 9/1988 Kalinoski ..... G01F 1/584  
73/861.12

(Continued)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A polymeric flow tube assembly is provided. The flow tube assembly includes a flow conduit configured to allow fluid flow therethrough. A first coil is mounted with respect to the flow conduit and disposed about a first magnetic pole member. A second coil is mounted with respect to the flow conduit and is disposed about a second magnetic pole member. The second magnetic pole member is configured to cooperate with the first magnetic pole member to generate an electromagnetic field across a flow measurement aperture. First and second electrodes are positioned within the flow tube assembly to measure an electromotive force generated within a fluid in the flow measurement aperture. At least one of the first magnetic pole member, second magnetic pole member, first electrode and second electrode is formed, at least in part, of a polymer.

**16 Claims, 13 Drawing Sheets**



(56)

**References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,774,844 A \* 10/1988 Davis ..... G01F 1/588  
73/861.12  
5,540,103 A \* 7/1996 Zingg ..... G01F 1/586  
73/861.11  
5,817,948 A \* 10/1998 Davis ..... G01F 1/584  
73/861.12  
7,650,797 B2 \* 1/2010 Nielsen ..... G01F 1/58  
73/861.12  
2001/0002553 A1 \* 6/2001 Willigen ..... G01F 1/586  
73/861.12  
2005/0223816 A1 \* 10/2005 Ishikawa ..... G01F 1/586  
73/861.12  
2006/0010988 A1 \* 1/2006 Bitz ..... G01F 1/584  
73/861.12  
2006/0174715 A1 \* 8/2006 Wehrs ..... G01F 1/60  
73/861.12  
2007/0022823 A1 \* 2/2007 Knill ..... G01F 1/584  
73/861.12  
2007/0036590 A1 \* 2/2007 Terashima ..... G03G 15/0808  
399/277  
2007/0234821 A1 10/2007 Wehrs et al.  
2010/0024569 A1 \* 2/2010 Ehrenberg ..... G01F 1/586  
73/861.12  
2010/0107776 A1 \* 5/2010 Shanahan ..... G01F 1/60  
73/861.11  
2010/0180692 A1 \* 7/2010 Reichart ..... G01F 1/58  
73/861.11

2012/0297891 A1 \* 11/2012 Voigt ..... G01F 1/584  
73/861.11  
2014/0083199 A1 \* 3/2014 Rogers ..... G01F 1/584  
73/861.12  
2014/0083200 A1 \* 3/2014 Rogers ..... G01F 1/588  
73/861.12  
2014/0144246 A1 \* 5/2014 Drahm ..... G01F 1/002  
73/861.12  
2014/0260661 A1 \* 9/2014 Smith ..... G01F 1/584  
73/861.12  
2015/0168188 A1 \* 6/2015 Reichart ..... G01F 1/584  
73/861.12

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

JP H1019617 A 1/1998  
JP 11-148847 A 6/1999  
JP H11148847 A 6/1999  
JP 22006249359 A 9/2006

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

First Office Action dated Mar. 1, 2019 for Chinese Patent Application No. 201611001693.1, 14 pages including English translation.  
Japanese Office Action dated Sep. 3, 2019 for Japanese Patent Application No. 2018-551265, 18 pages including English Translation.

\* cited by examiner

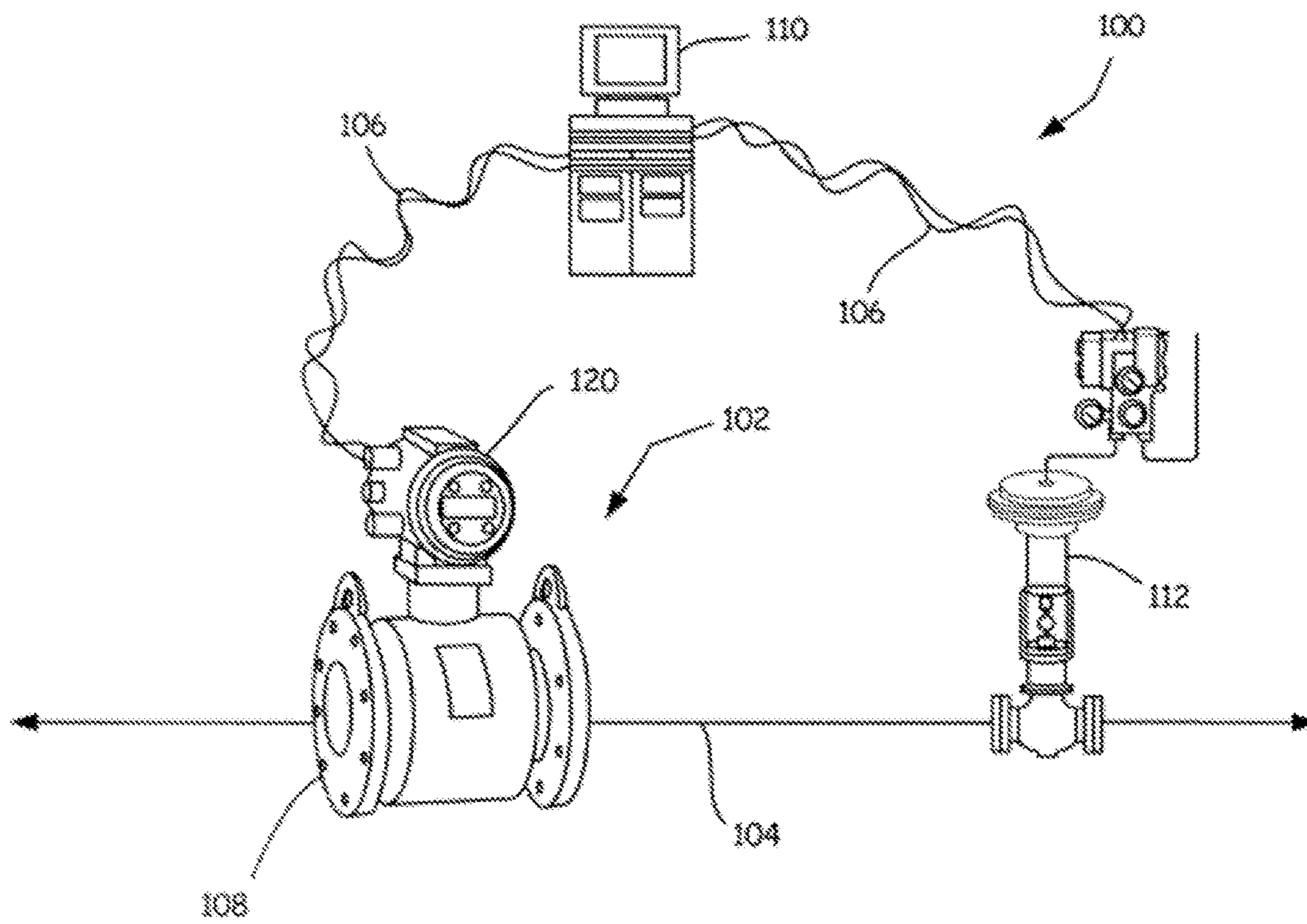


Fig. 1



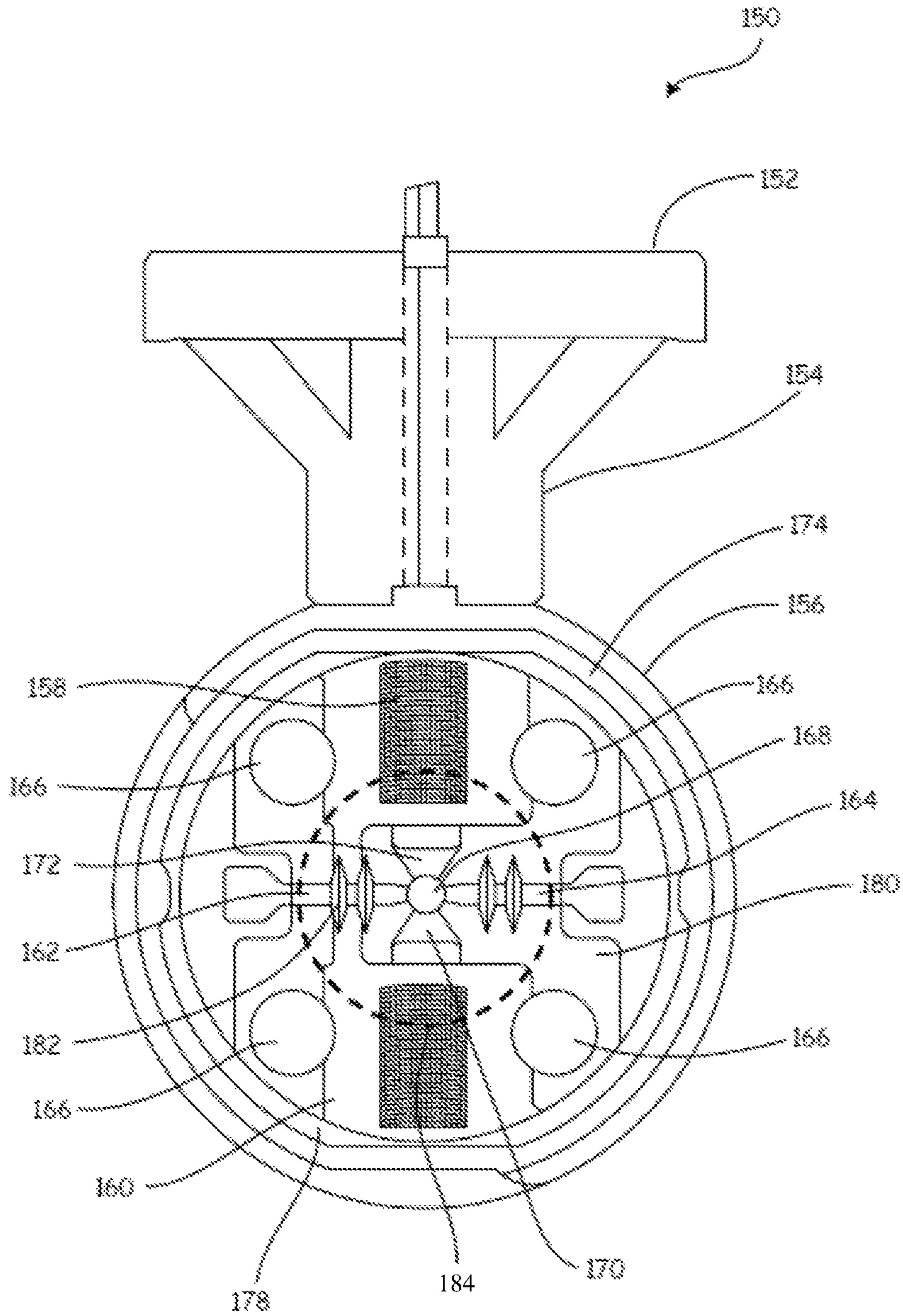


Fig. 2

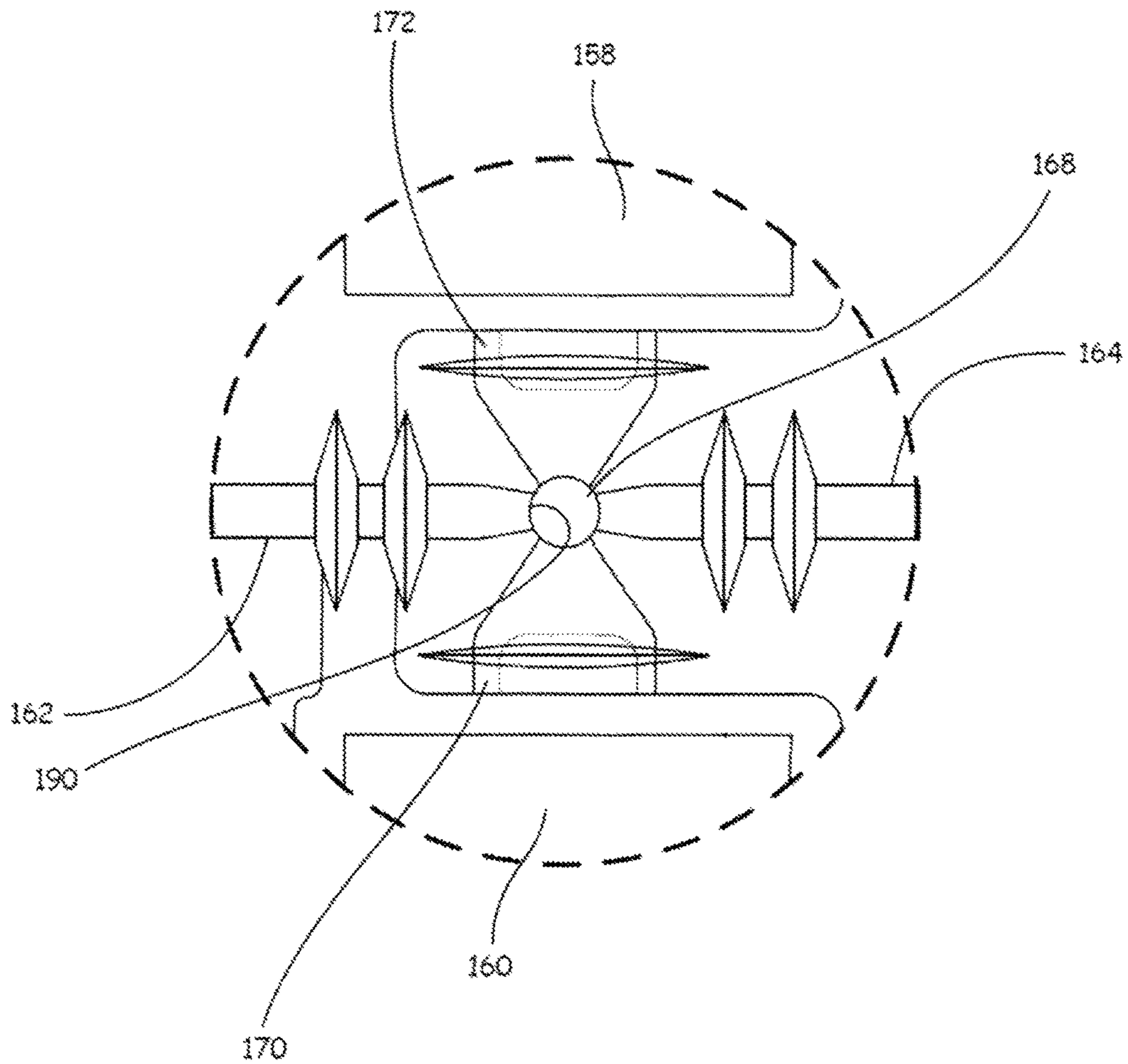


Fig. 3A

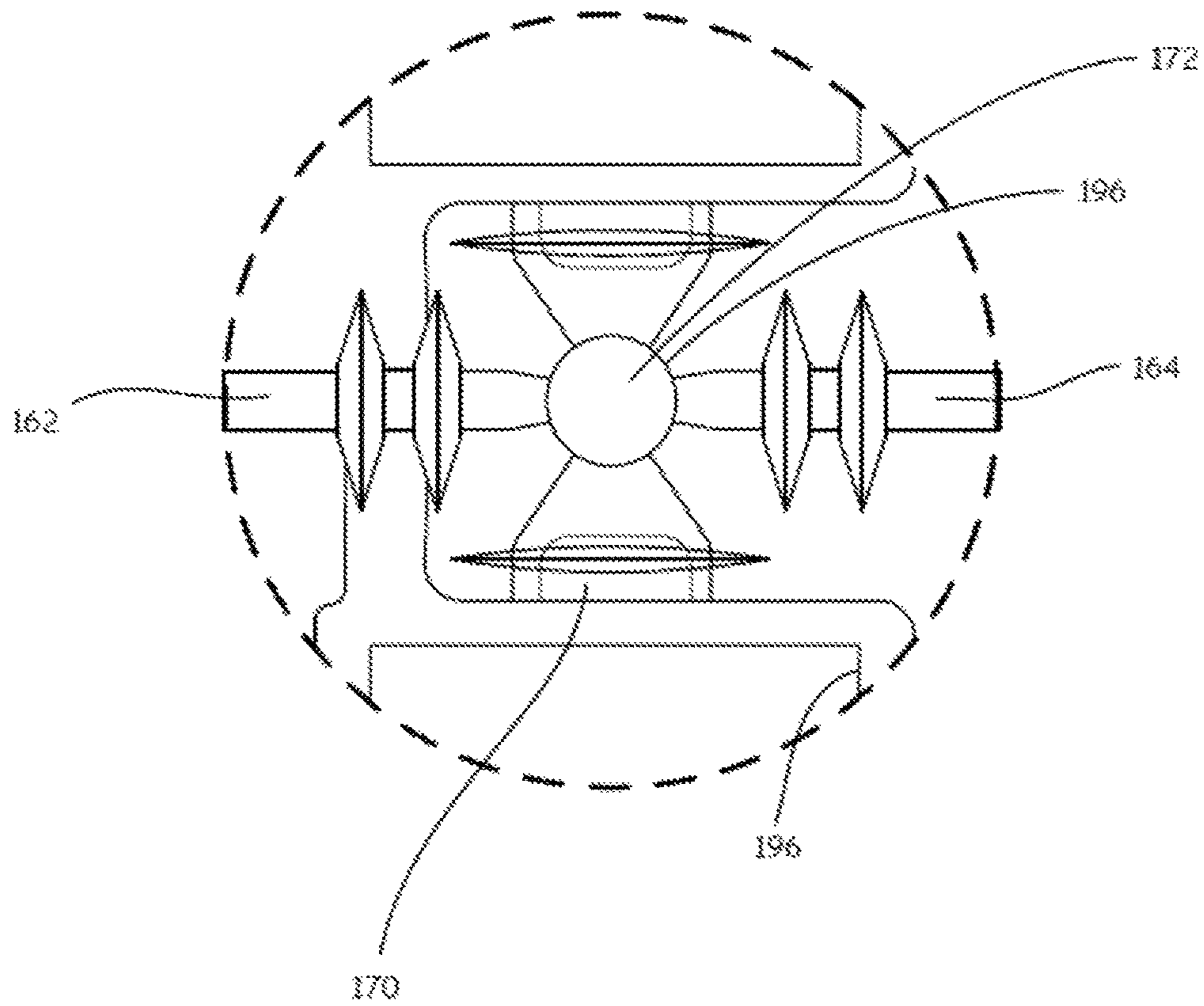


Fig. 3B

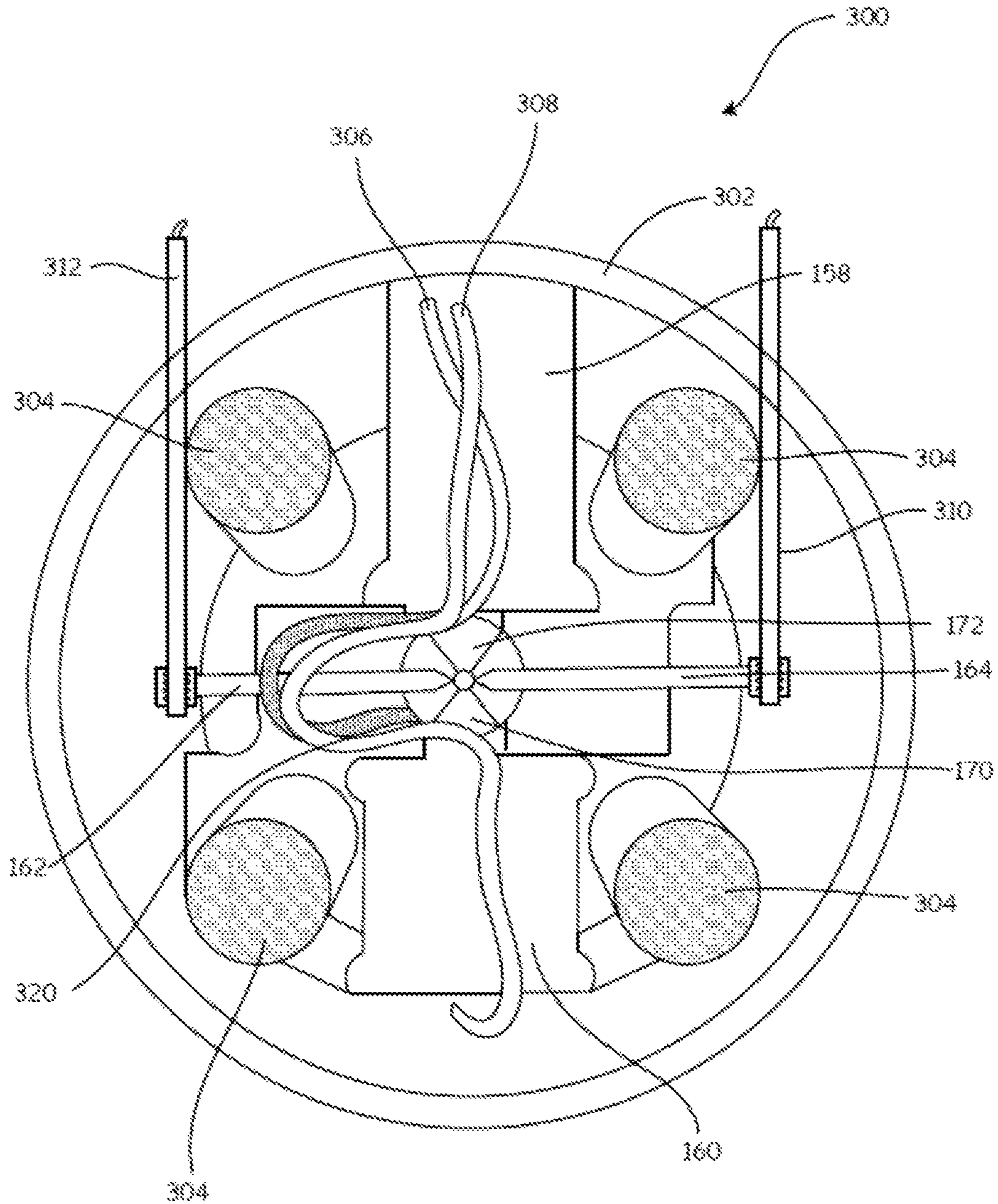


Fig. 4



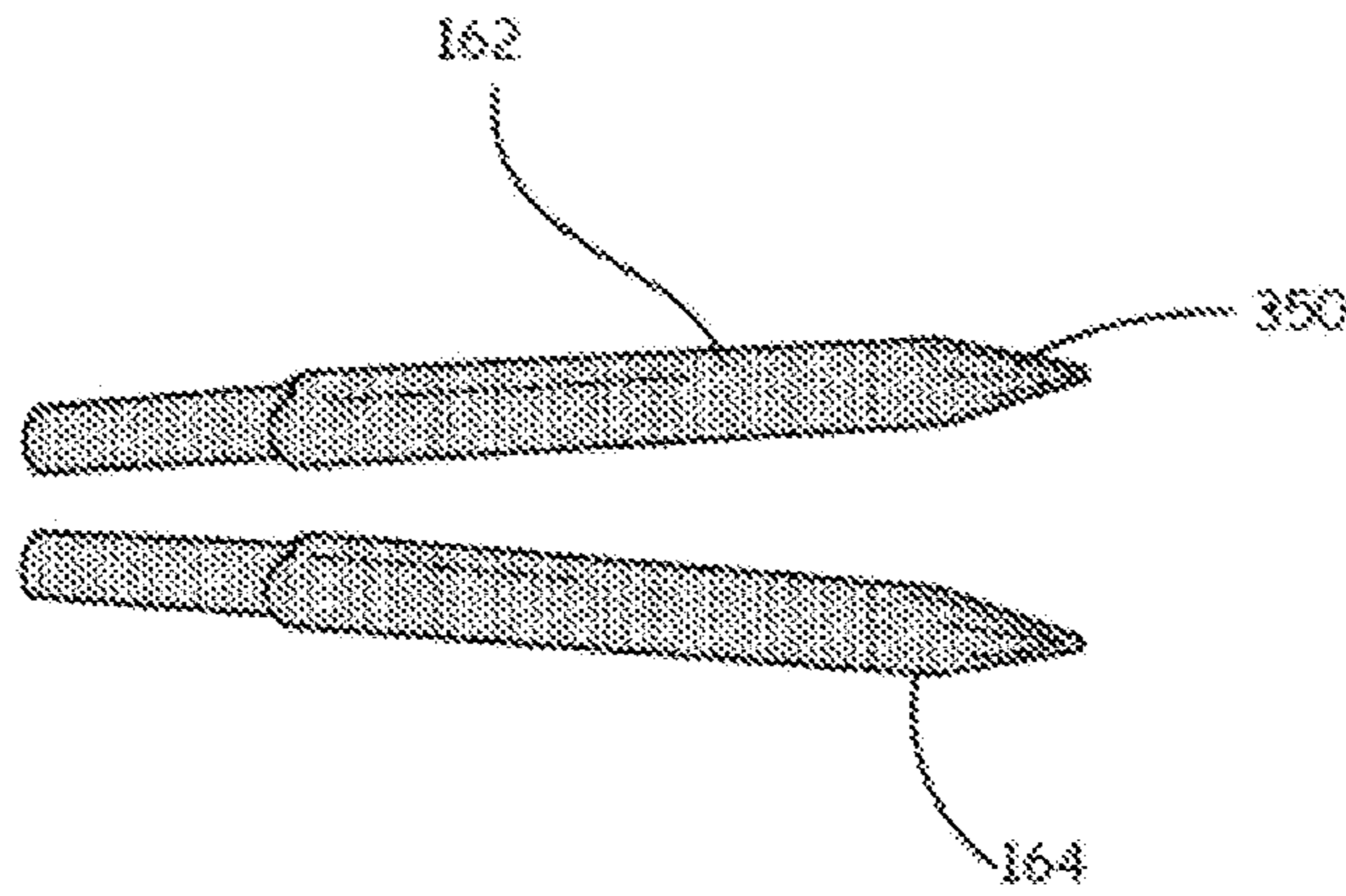


Fig. 5A

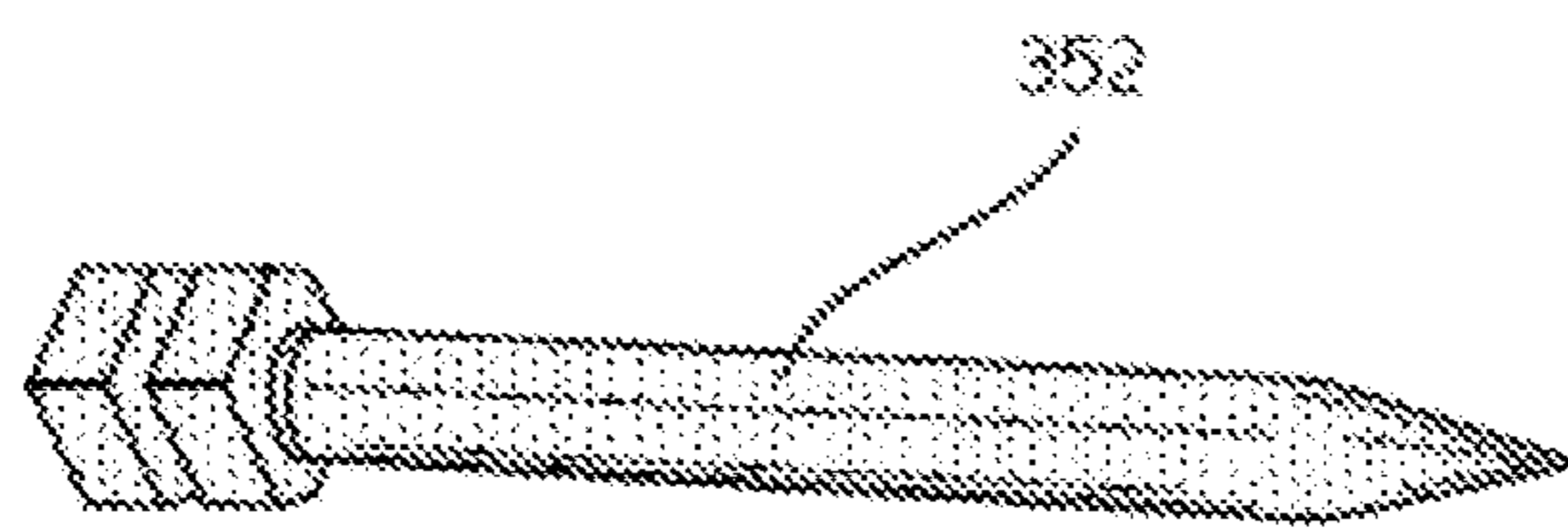


Fig. 5B



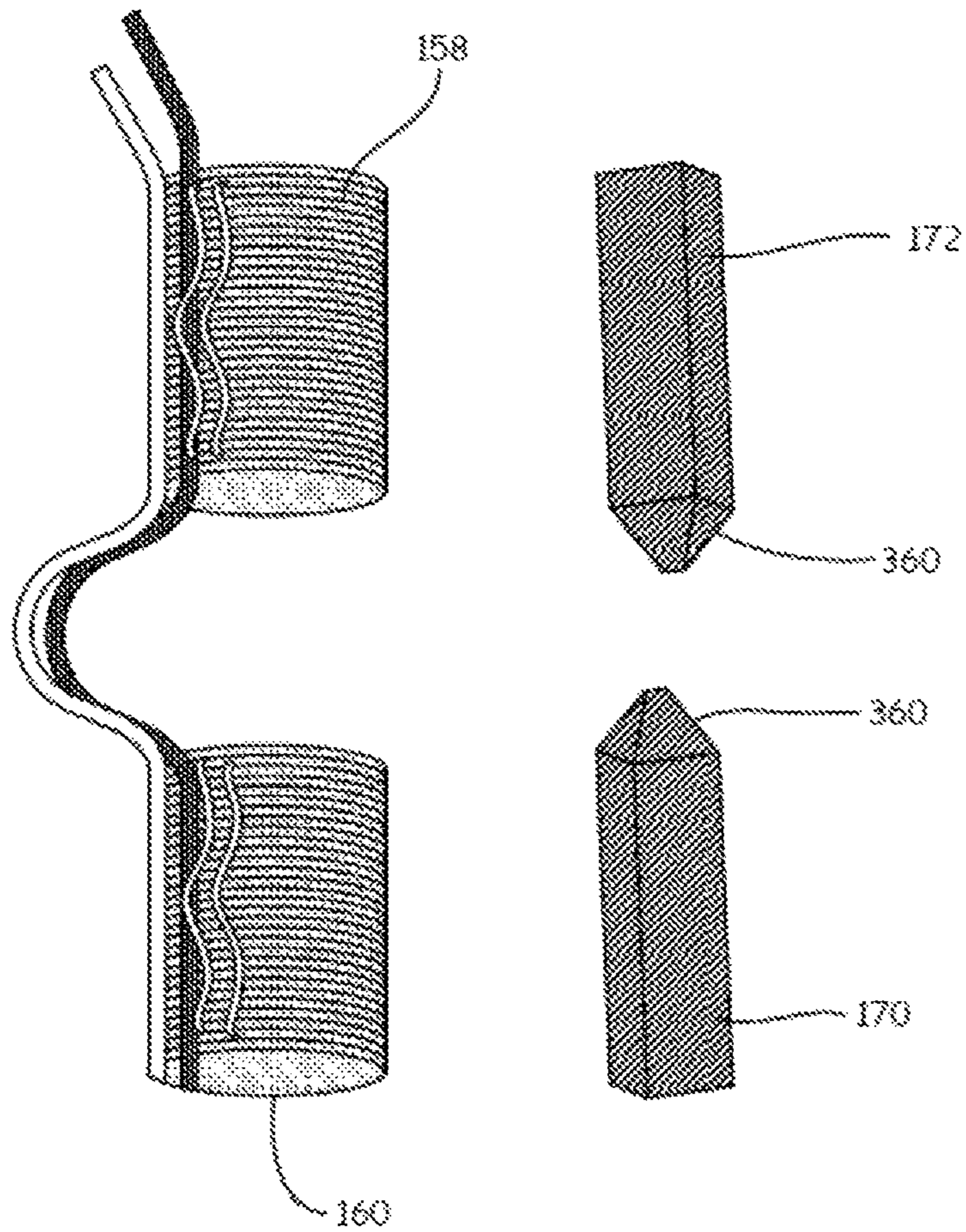


Fig. 6

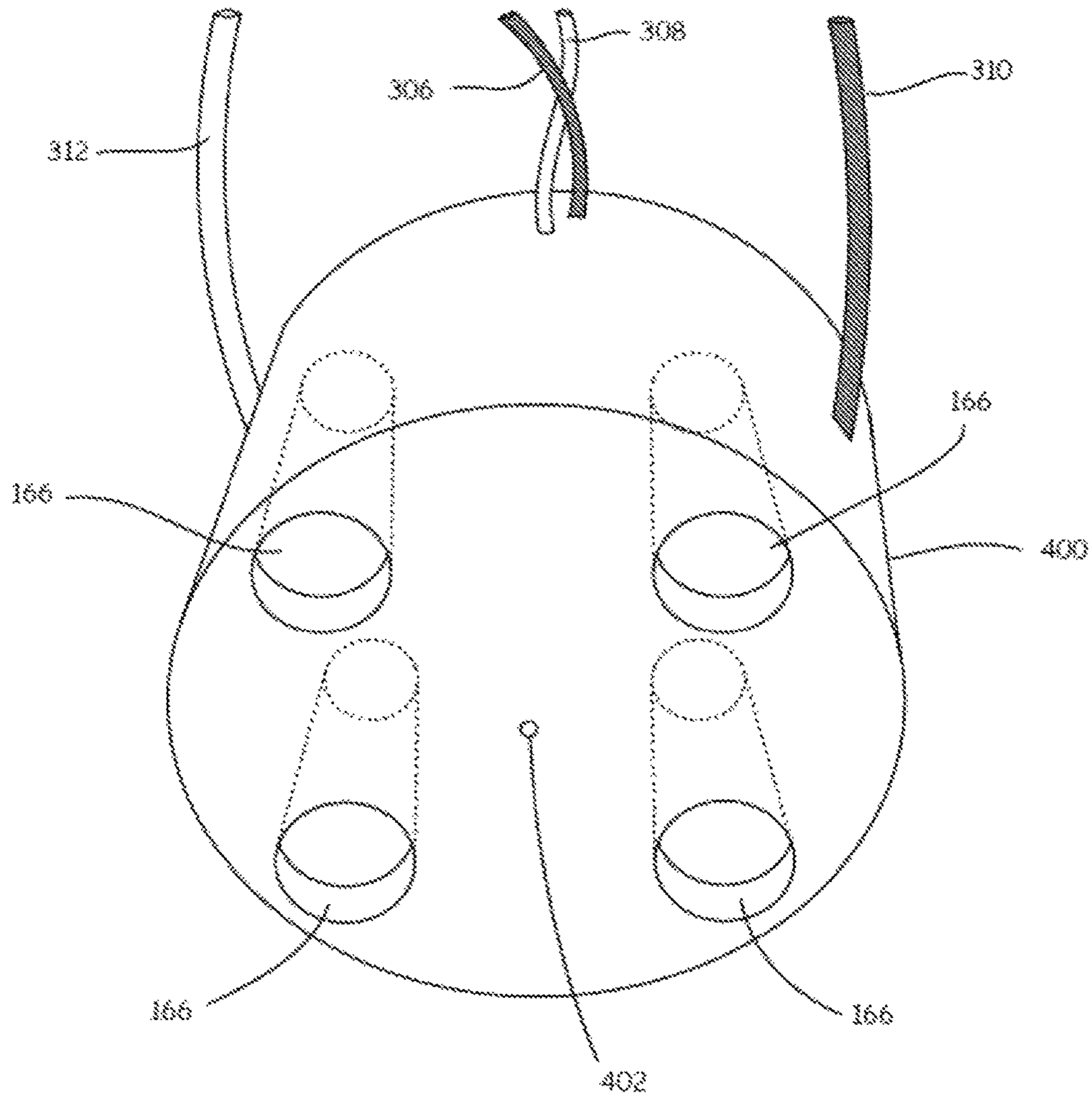


Fig. 7

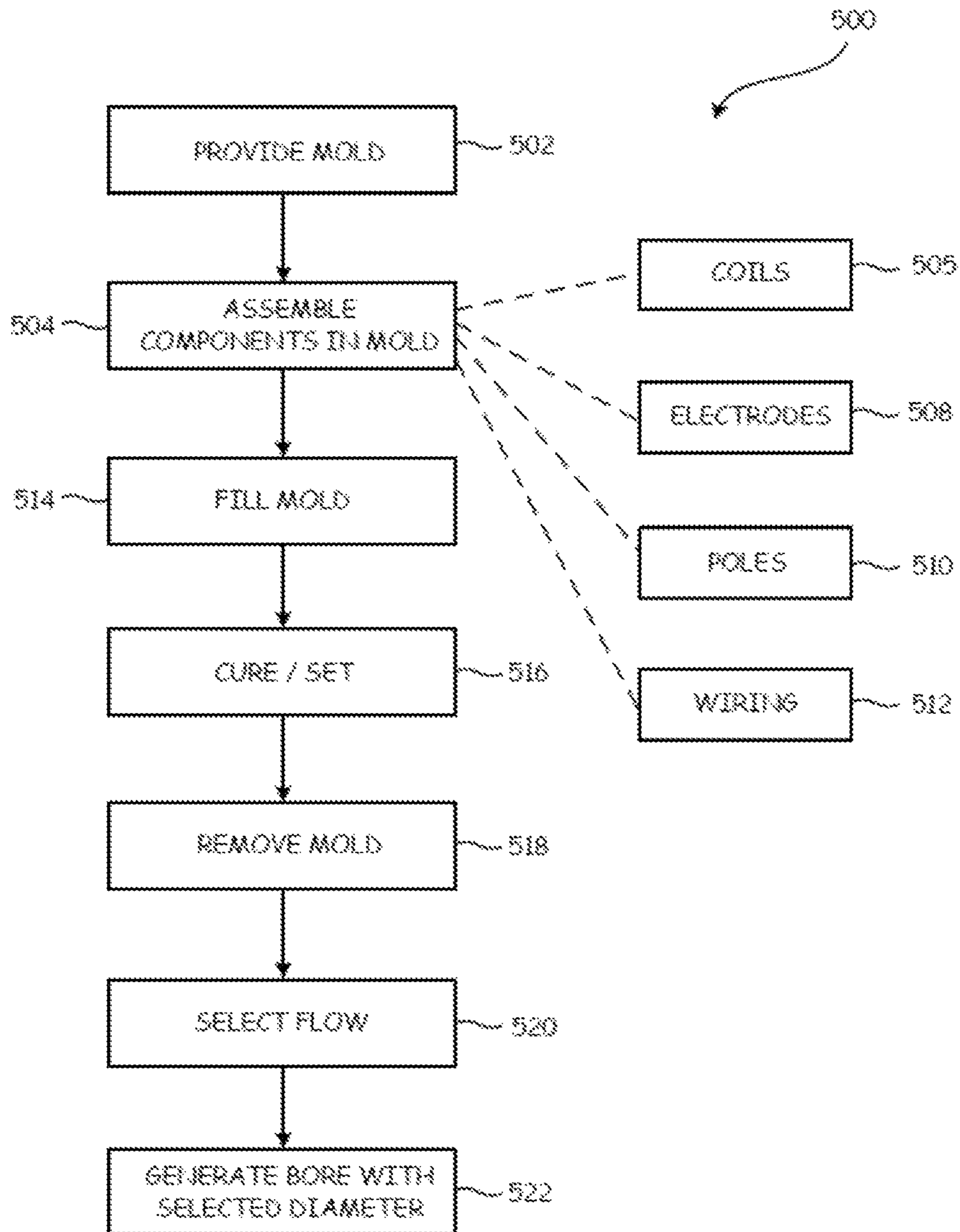


Fig. 8

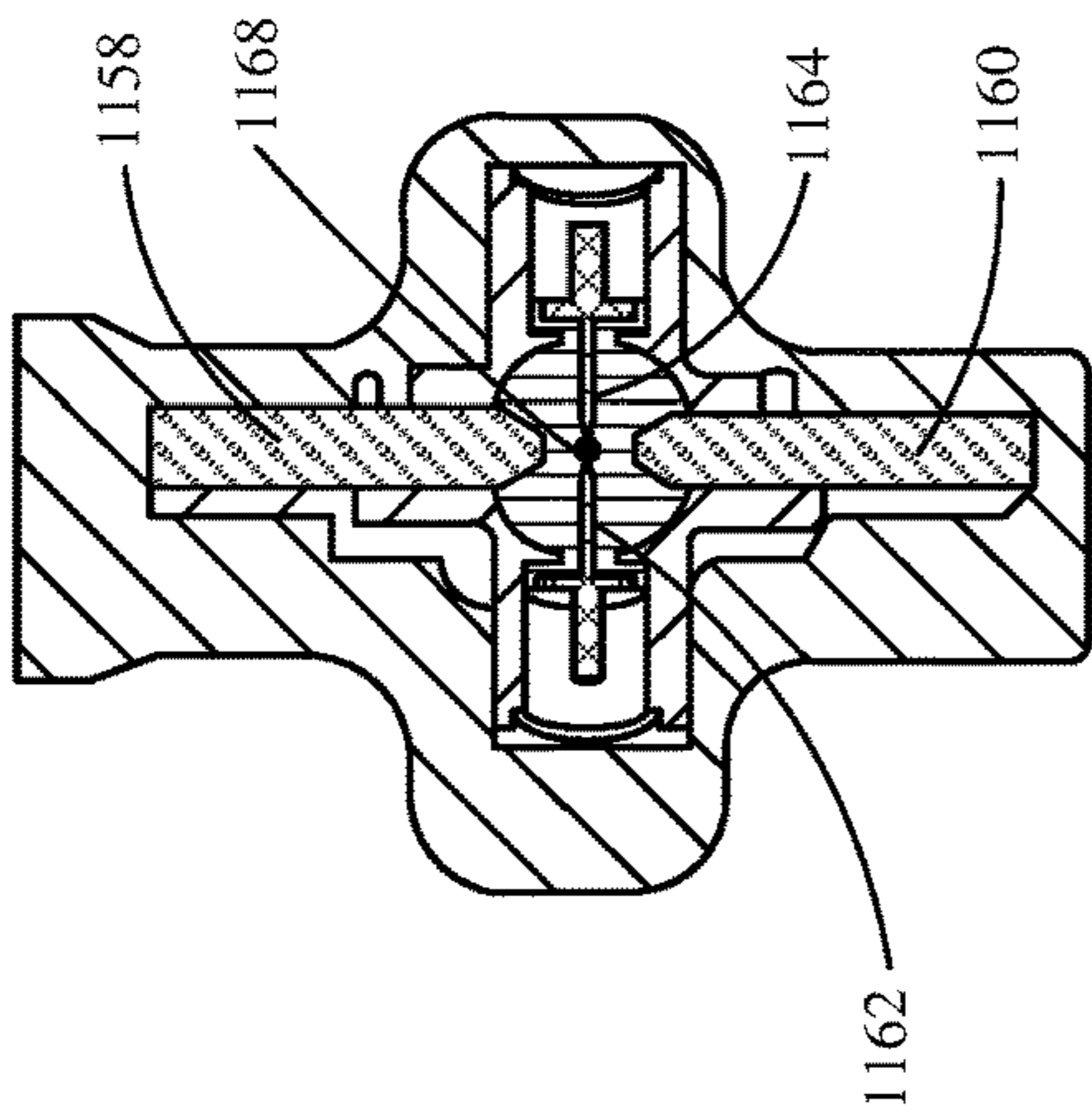


FIG. 9A

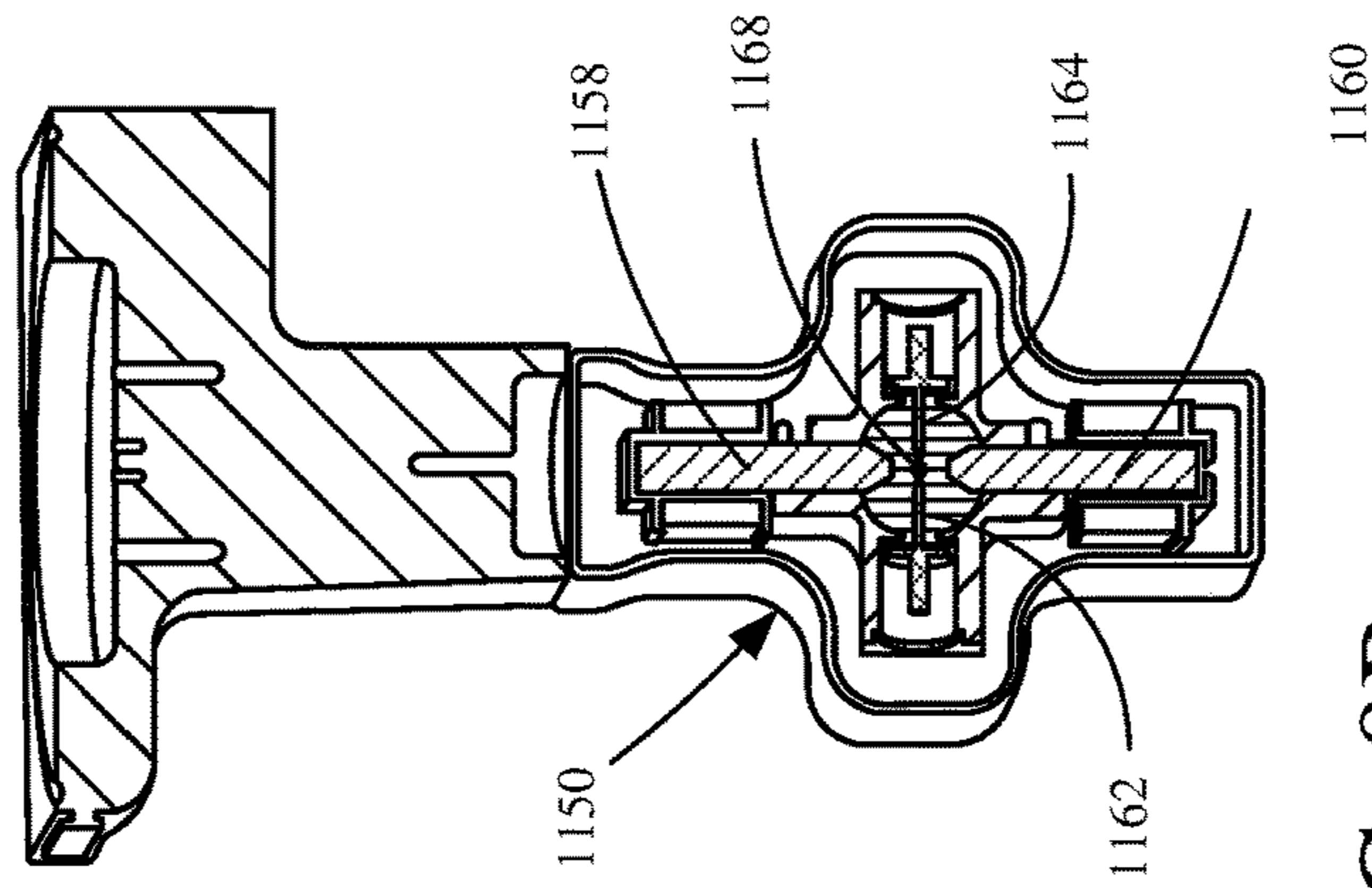


FIG. 9B

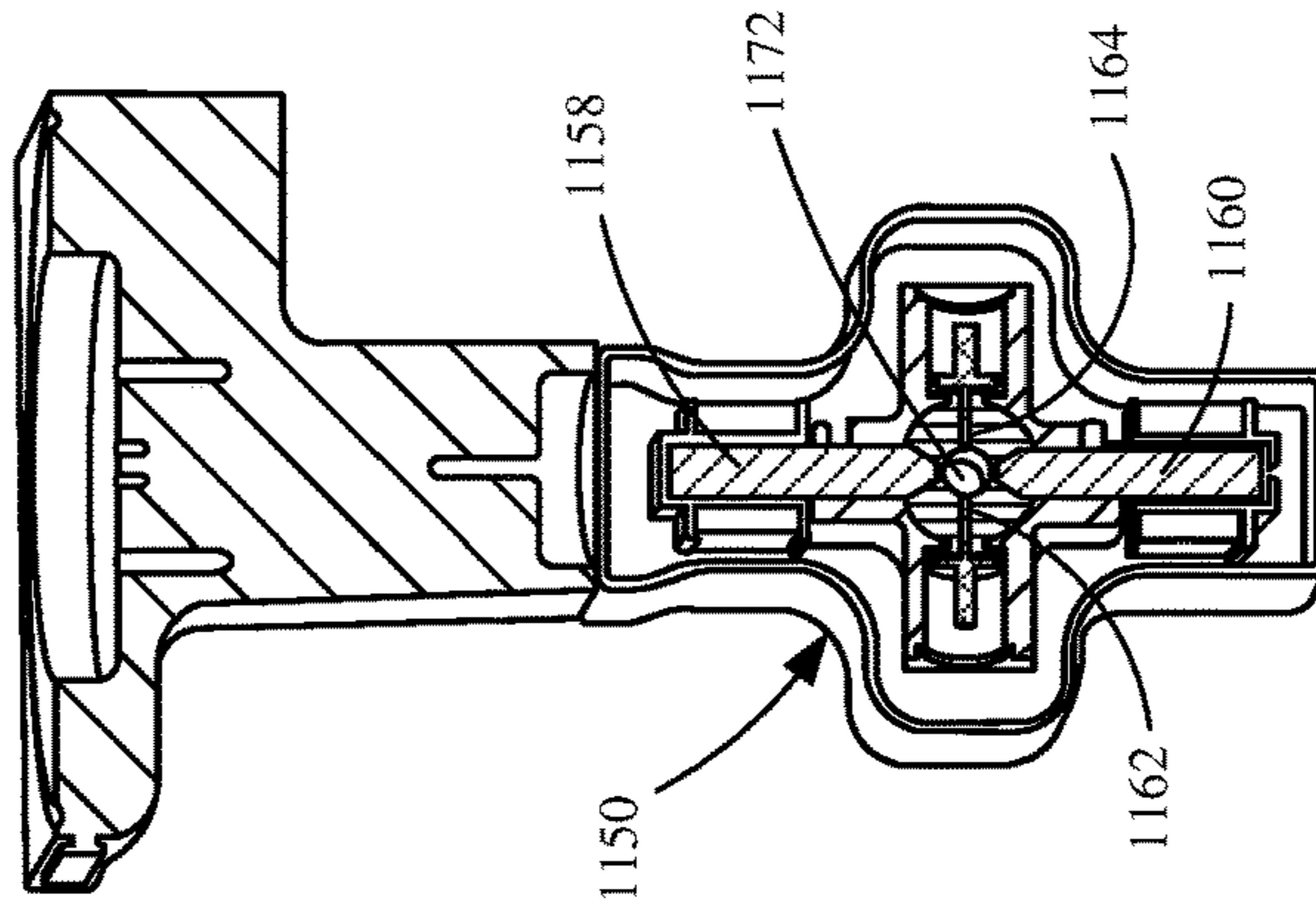


FIG. 9C



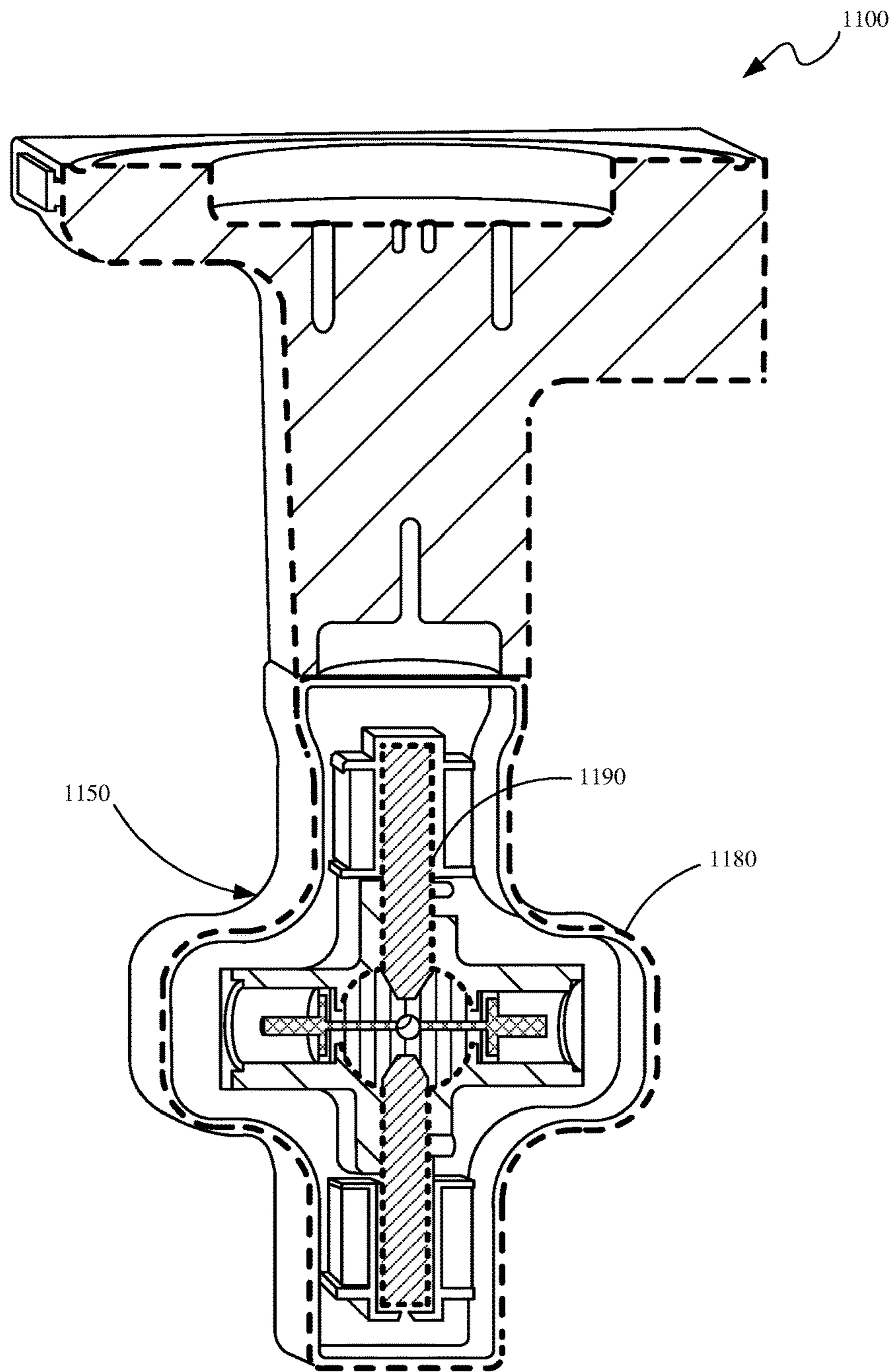


FIG. 9D

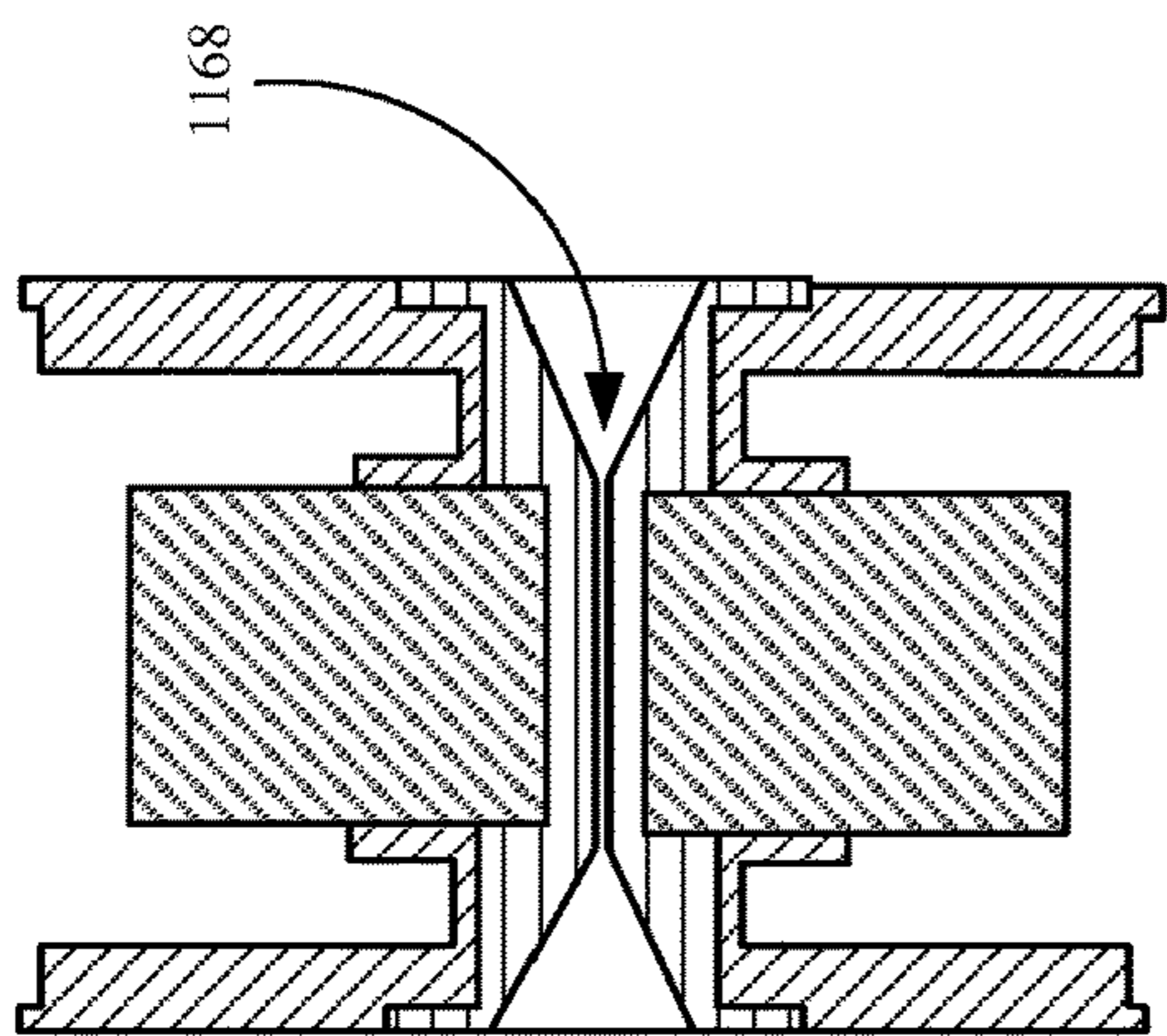


FIG. 10A

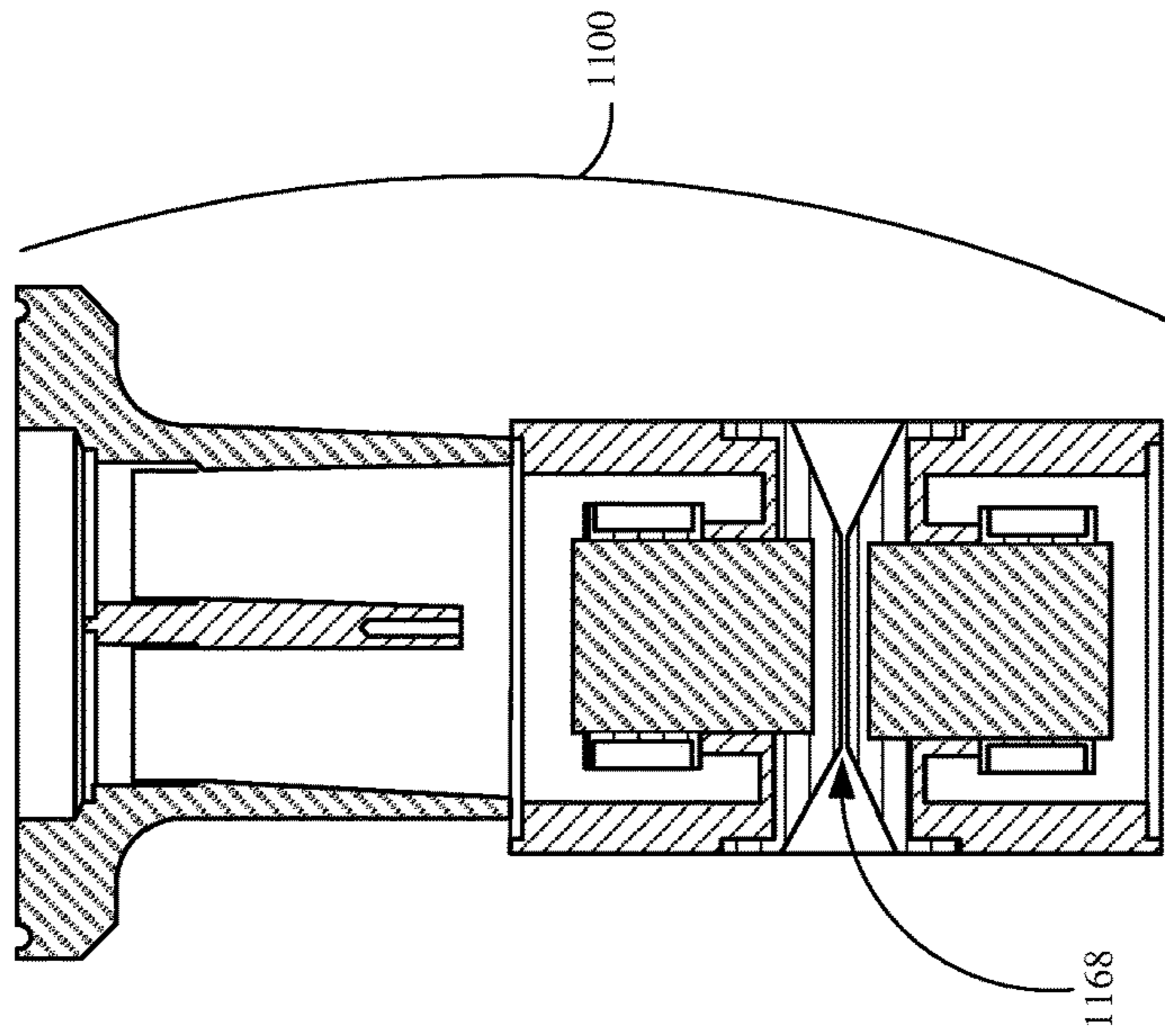


FIG. 10B

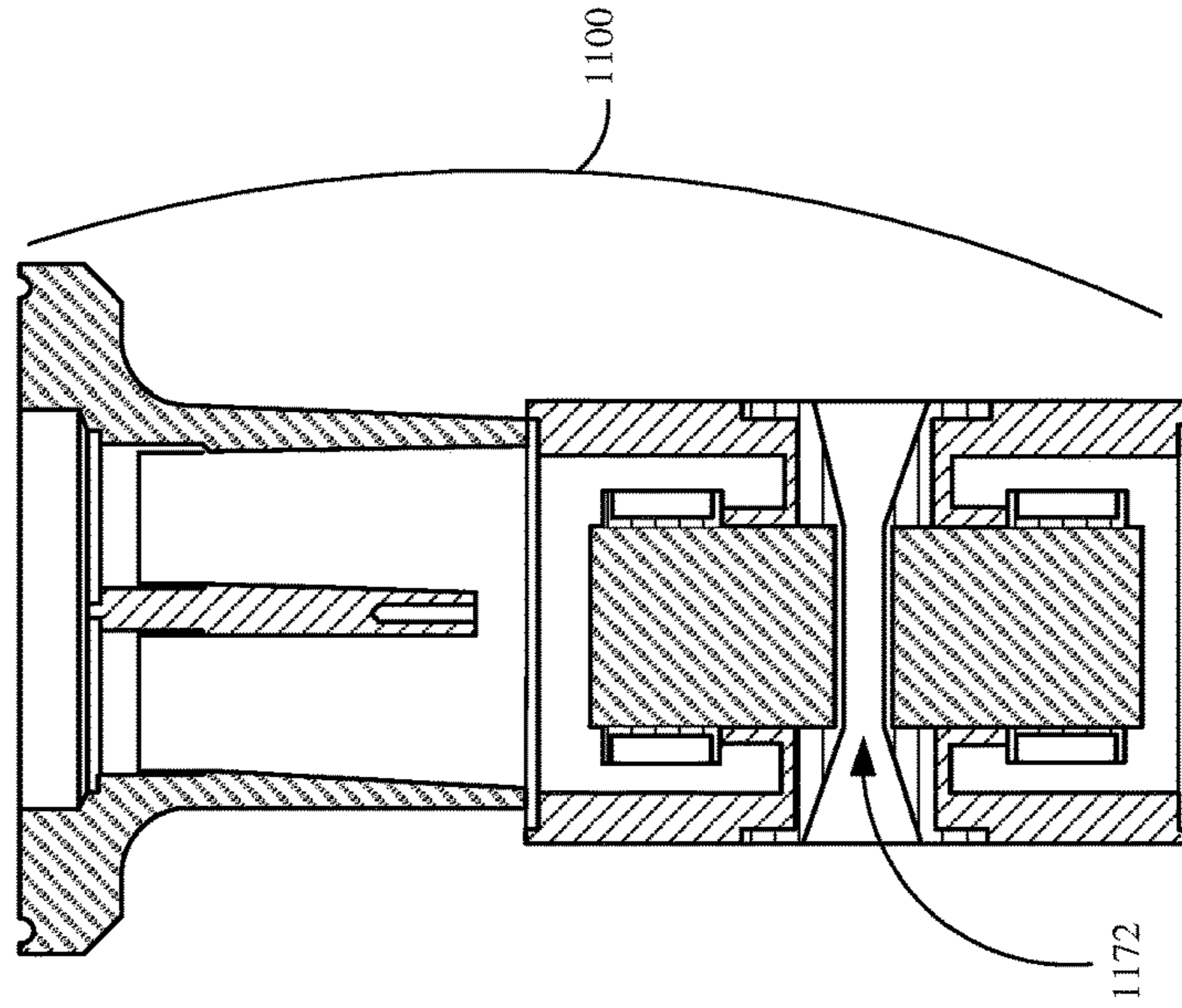


FIG. 10C

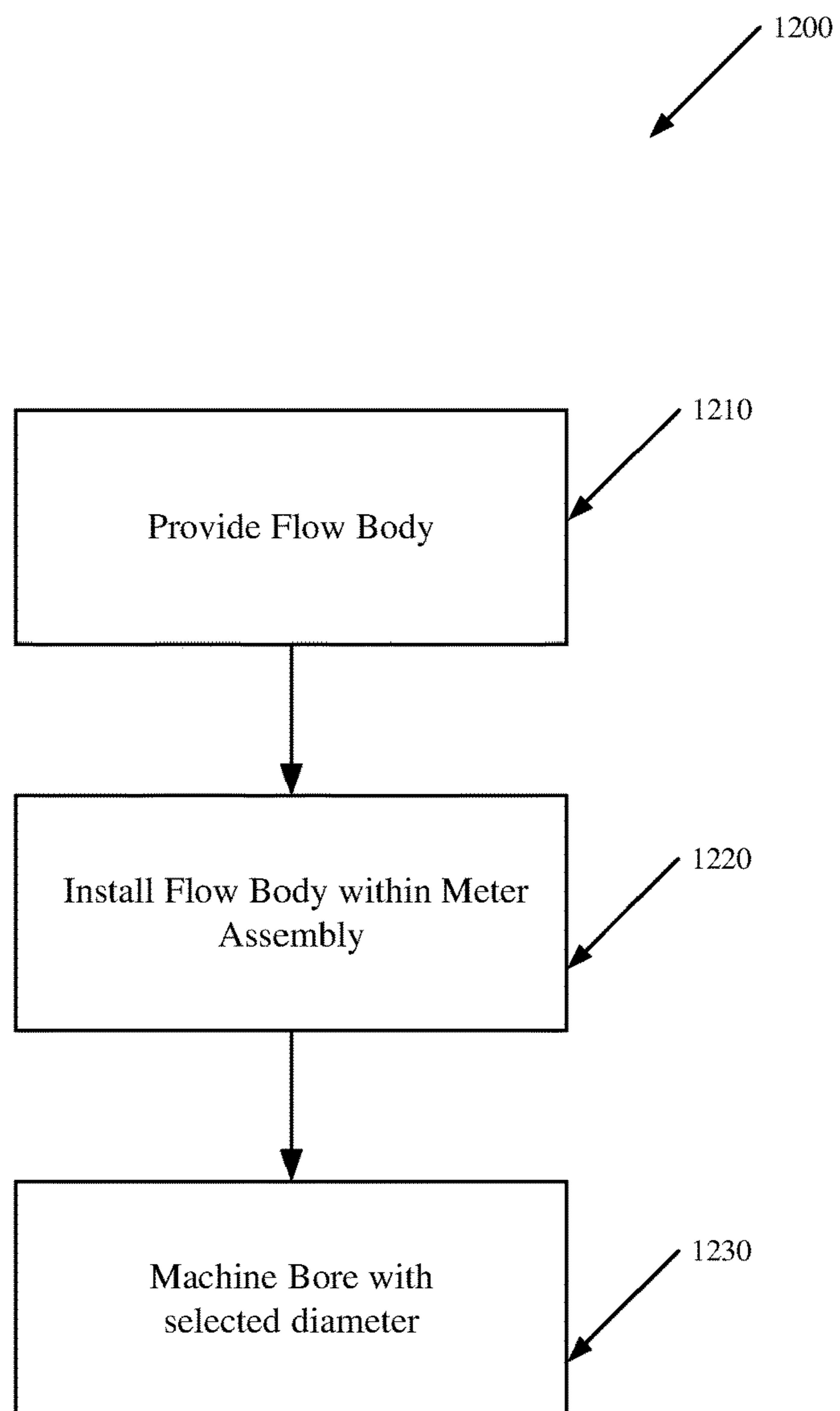


FIG. 11



## 1

POLYMERIC MAGNETIC FLOWMETER  
FLOW BODY ASSEMBLY

## BACKGROUND

Magnetic flowmeters (or mag meters) measure flow by Faraday induction, an electromagnetic effect. The magnetic flowmeter energizes a coil which generates a magnetic field across a section of a flow body assembly. The magnetic field induces an electromotive force (EMF) across the flow of conductive process fluid. The resulting potential developed across the conductive fluid is measured using a pair of electrodes that extends into the flowing process fluid. Alternatively, some magnetic flowmeters employ capacitive coupling between the electrodes and the process fluid such that the EMF can be measured without direct contact. In any event, the flow velocity is generally proportional to the induced EMF, and the volumetric flow is proportional to the flow velocity and the cross-sectional area of the flow body.

Magnetic flowmeters are useful in a variety of fluid flow measurement environments. In particular, the flow of water-based fluids, ionic solutions and other conducting fluids can all be measured using magnetic flowmeters. Thus, magnetic flowmeters can be found in water treatment facilities, beverage and hygienic food production, chemical processing, high purity pharmaceutical manufacturing, as well as hazardous and corrosive fluid processing facilities. Magnetic flowmeters are also often employed in the hydrocarbon fuel industry.

Magnetic flowmeters provide fast and accurate flow measurements in applications where other flow techniques, which introduce a flow measurement element (such as an orifice plate) into the process flow, are not suitable. One of the significant costs in the manufacture of the magnetic flowmeter is the flow body through which the process fluid flows. This flow body must bear the process fluid pressure and must not introduce leaks into the process. Typically, the flow body is formed as a tube and includes a pair of flanges that bolt to pipe flanges to create a robust process fluid connection. In order to provide flow body assemblies that are suitable for a variety of different process flow connections, flow bodies are designed and manufactured in order to accommodate different cross-sectional flow areas. However, each cross sectional flow area size, or diameter in the case of a flow tube, offered by the manufacturer typically requires dedicated tooling and manufacturing processes. Thus, additional cost and lead time can be introduced into the manufacturing process due to the availability of such varied flow diameter options.

## SUMMARY

A polymeric flow body assembly is provided. The flow body assembly includes a flow conduit configured to allow fluid flow therethrough. A first coil is mounted with respect to the flow conduit and disposed about a first magnetic pole member. A second coil is mounted with respect to the flow conduit and is disposed about a second magnetic pole member. The second magnetic pole member is configured to cooperate with the first magnetic pole member to generate an electromagnetic field across a flow measurement aperture. First and second electrodes are positioned within the flow body assembly to measure an electromotive force generated within a fluid in the flow measurement aperture. At least one of the first magnetic pole member, second

## 2

magnetic pole member, first electrode and second electrode is formed, at least in part, of a polymer.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a diagrammatic view of a typical environment with which embodiments of the present invention are useful.

FIG. 2 is a diagrammatic view of a polymeric flow body assembly in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 3A and 3B are enlarged diagrammatic views of a region shown in FIG. 2.

FIG. 4 is a diagrammatic view of an assembled mold for a polymeric flow body assembly prior to introduction of the polymer.

FIG. 5A is a diagrammatic view of magnetic pole members in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 5B is a diagrammatic view of electrodes of a flowmeter flow body assembly in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 6 is a diagrammatic view of coils and magnetic pole members in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 7 is a diagrammatic view of flow body assembly in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 8 is a flow diagram of a method of forming a flow body assembly in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 9A-9D illustrate a plurality of diagrammatic views of a polymeric flow body assembly during various stages of installation in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 10A-10C illustrate diagrammatic views of a polymeric flow body assembly in different stages of a process installation in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 11 is a flow diagram of a method of forming a flow body assembly during an installation within a process environment in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIVE  
EMBODIMENTS

FIG. 1 illustrates a typical environment **100** for magnetic flowmeter **102**. Magnetic flowmeter **102** is coupled to process piping, illustrated diagrammatically at line **104** that also couples to control valve **112**. Magnetic flowmeter **102** is configured to provide a flow rate output relative to the process fluid flow in a process plant. Examples of such process fluids include slurries and liquids in chemicals, pulp, pharmaceutical, food and other fluid processing plants.

Magnetic flowmeter **102** includes electronics housing **120** or a suitable junction box connected to a flow body. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 1, the flow body is disposed between a pair of mounting flanges **108** for mounting to associated pipe flanges. However, embodiments of the present invention are equally applicable to wafer-type flow bodies as well. Magnetic flowmeter **102** outputs are configured for transmission over long distances to a controller or indicator via a process communication bus **106**. In typical processing plants, communication bus **106** can be a 4-20 mA current loop, a FOUNDATION™ Fieldbus connection, a pulse output/frequency output, a Highway Addressable Remote Transduce (HART®) protocol communication, a wireless communication connection, such as that in accor-



dance with IEC62591, Ethernet, or a fiber optic connection to a controller such as system controller/monitor **110** or other suitable device. System controller **110** is programmed as a process monitor, to display flow information for a human operator or as a process controller to control the process using control valve **112** over process communication bus **106**. While embodiments of the present invention are applicable to all magnetic flowmeters, they are particularly relevant to magnetic flowmeters that coupled to relatively small diameter process pipes. This is because in the smallest flowmeter flow body sizes, there is much less overlap in the measurable flow range of one size and the next size. For example, 1.5 inch diameter through 14 inch diameter flowmeters have flow ranges that overlap by 44% to 82%. However, the smallest fractional sizes 0.15 inch diameter through 0.5 inch diameter can measure flow ranges that overlap by less than 25%. This makes it more difficult for end users to choose a size that can measure a wide flow turndown. However, as set forth above, adding individual size options is costly in terms of development time, inventory of unique parts, and manufacturing complexity.

FIG. 2 is a diagrammatic view of a polymeric flow body assembly in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. Polymeric flow body assembly **150** is a unitary piece that can be easily machined to a vast array of sizes. Assembly **150** can use the same coil and pole member for a variety of different flow configurations, and is able to provide a single flow body that, based upon machining, is capable of measuring flows with a measurement bore diameter from 0.030 inches to over 0.5 inch diameter. Assembly **150** includes flange **152** that is configured to mount a junction box or electronics housing, such as electronics housing **120**, described above. A number of conductors run through flange **152** and through neck **154** into flow body **156**. The conductors couple to a plurality of coils **158**, **160** and a pair of electrodes **162**, **164**. In the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 2, four mounting holes **166** are provided that allow mounting bolts to pass through flow body **156**. In the embodiment shown, a centrally-located measurement aperture **168** is provided that has a pair of diametrically opposed magnetic pole members **170**, **172** arranged approximately 90° offset from electrodes **162**, **164**. In the example shown in FIG. 2, aperture **168** has a diameter of approximately 0.080 inches. Pole members **170**, **172** are, in one embodiment, formed of a polymer, such as plastic, that is filled with magnetic material such as iron powder. Additionally, magnetic return path **174** is also, in one embodiment, formed of a polymer filled with magnetic material such as iron powder. In one embodiment, electrodes **162**, **164** are also formed of a polymer, such as plastic, that is filled with a conductive material such as carbon and/or nickel. Additionally, the polymer used for pole members **170**, **172** and electrodes **162**, **164** can be the same, in some embodiments. A polymeric frame **178** is also provided within flow body **156** in order to maintain or otherwise mount all of the various components of flow body **156** into a single, solid piece so that the final body can be more easily molded. In one embodiment, polymeric frame **178** is also formed of the same polymer as pole members **170**, **172** and electrodes **162**, **164**. However, frame **178** will not have any conductive or magnetic fillers. Similarly, a polymeric filler **180** is also provided that is, in one embodiment, formed of the same polymer as frame **178** and pole members **170**, **172** and electrodes **162**, **164**. Additionally, in the embodiment shown in FIG. 2, each of electrodes **162**, **164** includes one or more sealing fins **182** that extend radially from each electrode **162**, **164**. In one embodiment, these sealing fins are formed of the

same material as the electrode and are designed such that heat from the over mold layer will be sufficient to melt the thin ends of the fins **182** to create a consistent seal between the components.

FIGS. 3A and 3B are enlarged diagrammatic views of region **184** in FIG. 2. As shown in FIG. 3A, pole member **170** is disposed such that electrical windings in coil **160** encircle pole member **170**. Thus, as electrical current flows through the windings of coil **160**, a magnetic field is generated by pole member **170**. Similarly, as electrical current flows through windings of coil **158**, a magnetic field is generated by pole member **172**. This magnetic field is directed across measurement bore **168** and thus generates an EMF that is detectable using electrodes **162**, **164**. Measurement bore **168** is generally formed by a single machining operation, such as drilling. This drilling operation removes a portion of each of pole members **170**, **172**, and electrodes **162**, **164**. Accordingly, the portion of pole members **170**, **172** and electrodes **162**, **164** that interact with measurement bore **168** generally have an end, such as end **190** of electrode **162** that conforms to the inside diameter of bore **168**. Since the components are polymeric, they are easily machinable. Thus, different measurement bores can be generated simply by using different sized drill bits in the drilling operation. For example, FIG. 3B shows a larger measurement bore **196**. Further, the larger bore is easily accommodated by electrodes **162**, **164** and pole members **170**, **172**, which simply have additional material removed. The ends of pole members **170**, **172** and electrodes **162**, **164** still conform to the inside diameter of measurement bore **196**.

FIG. 4 is a diagrammatic view of an assembled mold for a polymeric flow body assembly prior to introduction of the polymer. Mold **300** includes an outer shell **302**, which generally confines and determines the outside diameter of the polymeric flow body assembly. In the example illustrated in FIG. 4, four cylindrical members **304** are provided which will prevent the polymer from occupying the position of cylinders **304** thereby forming mounting holes **166** (shown in FIG. 2). Additionally, the pair of coils **158**, **160** are positioned such that respective magnetic pole members **172**, **170** are disposed therein. A pair of conductors **306**, **308** are electrically coupled to coils **158**, **160**. Similarly, conductors **310**, **312** are operably coupled to respective electrodes **164**, **162**. Each of magnetic pole members **170**, **172** as well as electrodes **162**, **164** generally taper toward center **320**. The amount of taper for the electrodes as well as the magnetic pole members can be varied based upon different applications. The taper may be linear or nonlinear, as desired. Regardless, for larger measurement bores, there is a larger surface area that interacts with the measurement bore from each of the magnetic pole members as well as the electrodes, in one embodiment.

FIG. 5A is a diagrammatic view of a pair of electrodes **162**, **164** formed of a polymer, such as ABS plastic. As shown more clearly in FIG. 5A, tapered portion **350** is provided at one end of electrode **162**. In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, the ABS (acrylonitrile butadiene styrene) is filled or otherwise embedded with a conductive material, such as carbon and/or nickel. However, it is preferred that the conductive material of electrodes **162**, **164** not be a magnetic material.

In accordance with an alternate embodiment, electrodes, such as the electrodes shown in FIG. 5B can be formed of a metal, such as stainless steel. While the machining of the stainless steel is more complex than that of ABS electrodes shown in FIG. 5A, stainless steel electrode **352** is extremely robust.



## 5

FIG. 6 is a diagrammatic view of coils **158**, **160** and magnetic pole members **170**, **172**. As shown in FIG. 6, pole members **170**, **172** generally have tapered portions **360** that face each other. In one embodiment, pole members **170**, **172** are formed of a polymer, such as ABS plastic, that is filled, or otherwise embedded with iron. Accordingly, magnetic pole members **170**, **172** are magnetically compliant.

In accordance with embodiments of the present invention, the electrodes, coils, and pole members are arranged within a mold, such as mold **300** as shown in FIG. 4, and then subjected to the introduction of a polymer, such as ABS plastic. However, it is expressly contemplated that any suitable polymers can be used. Once the polymer has cured, or otherwise set, it can be removed from mold **300**.

FIG. 7 is a diagrammatic view of such a removed flow body assembly. As shown, a unitary polymeric block **400** includes four mounting holes **166** as well as wires **306**, **308**, **310**, and **312** extending therefrom. In the center **402** of polymeric structure **400**, a measurement aperture will be generated having a diameter that is selected for the ultimate flow application. In accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, this measurement bore is formed simply by selecting the appropriately sized drill bit and drilling axially along center **402**.

FIG. 8 is a flow diagram of a method **500** of forming a flow body assembly in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. Method **500** begins at block **502** where a mold, such as mold **302** (shown in FIG. 4) is provided. Next, at block **504**, components of the flow body are assembled within the mold. Such components and assembly include coils **506**, electrodes **508**, pole members **510**, and wiring **512**. Once the assembly of block **504** is complete, the mold is filled with a polymer, as indicated at block **514**. Once the polymer has filled the mold, it is allowed to cure or otherwise set, as indicated at block **516**. Depending on the type of polymer, this cure/set process can include the introduction of heat, and/or pressure, as appropriate. Next, at block **518**, the mold is removed, and a unitary polymeric flow body block is provided. Next, at block **520**, a diameter for a measurement bore of the flow body is selected. Finally, at block **522**, an aperture or bore is generated in the polymeric flow body block according to the selected diameter. In one embodiment, blocks **520** and **522** comprise simply selecting and obtaining a suitably-sized drill bit and drilling axially through the center of the flow body block. However, in another embodiment, the machining of the bore can be a more complex process allowing variation of the bore cross-sectional shape and/or size in order to improve fluid dynamics in the measurement area. Further, the cross-sectional shape and/or size can vary as the machining operation moves axially through the center of the flow body. Thus, variations can be provided both radially and axially, as desired.

Various flow bodies formed in accordance with embodiments of the present invention have been found to have suitable gains that vary from around 70 with the smallest bore to around 180 with the largest bore. This compares favorably with the 75-140 range available in flow bodies currently. Additionally, polymeric flow bodies formed in accordance with embodiments of the present invention have had favorable repeatability and linearity characteristics. Further still, it is believed that material costs for the polymeric flow body will be reduced in comparison to traditional, metallic, flow body designs.

FIGS. 9A-9D illustrate a plurality of diagrammatic views of a polymeric flow body assembly during various stages of installation in accordance with one embodiment of the

## 6

present invention. In one embodiment, flow body assembly **1150** can be pre-machined with a pilot bore **1168** and installed within an assembly **1100** prior to machining of the final bore diameter. In one embodiment, this may allow for a reduction in cost and lead time as it allows for flow body assemblies to be pre-manufactured and shipped with an initial pilot bore diameter **1168**, and then machined to the final desired bore diameter **1172** by the customer either by request to the manufacturer, or by the customer upon delivery.

FIG. 9A illustrates an exemplary flow body assembly after a lining process. Flow body assembly **1150** includes a pair of coils **1158**, **1160** and a pair of electrodes **1162**, **1164**, that may be substantially similar to those of flow body **150** described previously. As illustrated in FIG. 9A, flow body assembly **1150**, after a lining process, contains only a pilot bore **1168** with a preset, manufactured diameter. The pilot bore **1168**, in one embodiment, is designed to allow for later machining by a manufacturer or customer to a desired bore diameter.

FIG. 9B illustrates an exemplary flow body assembly **1150** after an assembly process, wherein flow body assembly **1150** still contains a pilot bore **1168**. However, as illustrated in FIG. 9B, after the assembly process, flow body assembly **1150** is mounted within meter assembly **1100**.

Once flow body assembly **1150** has been installed, the bore can be machined to any selected diameter required by a user or application. For example, as illustrated in FIG. 9C, machined bore **1172** has a larger diameter than initial pilot bore **1168**. The diameter of machined bore **1172** can be selected by a customer and finally machined, in one embodiment, by the manufacturer prior to shipment. In another embodiment, the diameter of final machined bore **1172** is set by the customer and machining is completed by the customer.

In at least one embodiment, a flow tube assembly, such as assembly **1150**, needs to be compliant with one or more safety standards. In one embodiment, a flow body assembly may need to be compatible for use within a hazardous or explosive environment, for example due to the presence of hazardous and/or explosive process fluids. However, to provide a sufficient magnetic field to allow a magnet to function, the coil circuitry cannot be energy-limited and therefore alternative separation must be used. Separation barriers, for example barriers **1180** and **1190**, illustrated in FIG. 9D, can be used to maintain compliance with intrinsic safety standards in order for flow body assembly **1150** to be used within a hazardous or explosive atmosphere. In one embodiment, flow body assembly **1150** is compliant with international hazard standard FM3600. In another embodiment, flow body assembly **1150** is compliant with international hazardous standard IEC60079. In one embodiment, flow body assembly **1150** utilizes standard materials, for example steel and/or iron recognized by ASME B31 such that boundaries are established to contain line pressure. In one embodiment, boundary **1190** is maintained around portions of the flow body assemblies as illustrated in FIG. 9D such that a hazardous location separation and a boiler pressure vessel pressure boundary are maintained. In one embodiment, boundary **1180** is present around the flow body assembly such that a boiler pressure vessel pressure boundary is maintained within boundary **1180**.

FIGS. 10A-10C illustrate diagrammatic views of a polymeric flow body assembly in different stages of manufacture in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 10A illustrates a view of flow body assembly **1150** after an initial lining process. FIG. 10B illustrates a view of



the flow body assembly after an assembly process. In both FIGS. 10A and 10B the flow body assembly is illustrated with an initial pilot bore 1168. FIG. 10C illustrates a final flow body assembly with a machined bore 1172 having a diameter that is larger than initial pilot bore 1168. In one embodiment, the steps illustrated in FIGS. 10A-10C can be accomplished by the manufacturer after receiving a customer order, allowing for final bore machining and calibration to be completed by the manufacturer. However, a series of flow body assemblies with pre-manufactured pilot bores, as illustrated in FIG. 10B, can be stocked by a manufacturer and final machining and calibration can be completed, as illustrated in the transition from FIGS. 10B to 10C, as requested by the customer.

FIG. 11 is a flow diagram of a method of forming a flow body assembly during an installation within a process environment in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. Method 1200 provides a process such that either a manufacturer or a customer can machine a flow body assembly with a selected bore diameter.

In block 1210, a flow body is provided, for example within a manufacturing process. The flow body, for example could be flow body 1150 as described with regard to FIGS. 9 and 10, either before or after a lining process has been completed. Initially, the flow body could be provided with one or both of barriers 1180 and 1190 in place.

In block 1220, the provided flow body is installed within a meter assembly. This may be accomplished by a manufacturer installing the flow body within a meter assembly. In block 1220, a lining process may also be accomplished.

In block 1230, the provided flow body is machined to a desired bore diameter. In one embodiment, this involves enlarging an initially-provided pilot bore diameter. In one embodiment, this involves calibration of the final bore diameter. After the flow body assembly has a finally machined bore diameter, it may be installed within a process environment, or shipped to a customer for installation.

One advantage of providing a machinable flow body assembly, such as assembly 150 or 1150, is that it allows for the inside diameter of the liner and the electrodes to be machined or reamed to the same diameter in a single operation, performed after initial manufacturing of the flow body, such that the flow body assembly, within the final meter assembly, has a bore diameter selected by a customer. Additionally, a pre-manufactured, machinable flow body assembly allows for a variable bore geometry to be machined after critical manufacturing operations of the electrode assembly, coil assembly, wiring and welding have been completed by the manufacturer. Additionally, using materials compliant with any of the above described standards allows for a variable bore geometry to be machined such that a pressure boundary is not affected by the variable bore geometry when finally machined. Additionally, use of compliant materials allows for separation of hazardous process fluids and environments from rated circuitry independent of the variable bore geometry.

Another advantage of a flow body assembly, such as assembly 150 or 1150, available to be machined by an end user, is that it allows for the bore to be machined to alternate diameters in the field, allowing for elimination of a calibration shift, an otherwise required step. In at least one embodiment, flow body assembly 1150 eliminates the need for ground rings in a machinable multi-point process connection electrode.

Although the present invention has been described with reference to preferred embodiments, workers skilled in the

art will recognize that changes may be made in form and detail without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A polymeric flow body assembly comprising:
  - a polymeric flow body having a measurement bore with a bore curvature;
  - a first coil mounted with respect to the measurement bore and disposed about a first magnetic pole member disposed to contact fluid in the measurement bore;
  - a second coil mounted with respect to the measurement bore and disposed about a second magnetic pole member that is also disposed to contact the fluid in the measurement bore, wherein the second magnetic pole member is configured to cooperate with the first magnetic pole member to generate an electromagnetic field across the measurement bore;
  - first and second metal electrodes positioned within the flow body assembly to contact a fluid in the measurement bore and to measure an electromotive force generated within the fluid, wherein the first and second metal electrodes taper toward a center of the polymeric flow body assembly;
  - wherein at least one of the first magnetic pole member and second magnetic pole member is formed, at least in part, of the polymer; and
  - wherein each of the first and second metal electrodes and each of the first and second magnetic pole members has a curved end with the bore curvature.
2. The polymeric flow body assembly of claim 1, wherein each of the first and second magnetic pole members are formed of a magnetically compliant material embedded within a polymer.
3. The polymeric flow body assembly of claim 2, wherein the magnetically compliant material is iron.
4. The polymeric flow body assembly of claim 3, wherein the polymer is acrylonitrile butadiene styrene.
5. The polymeric flow body assembly of claim 1, wherein the first and second electrodes are formed of an electrically conducting material embedded within a polymer.
6. The polymeric flow body assembly of claim 5, wherein the electrically conducting material is selected from the group consisting of carbon and nickel.
7. The polymeric flow body assembly of claim 6, wherein the polymer is acrylonitrile butadiene styrene.
8. The polymeric flow body assembly of claim 1, wherein the first and second magnetic pole members are formed of the same polymer as the first and second electrodes.
9. The polymeric flow body assembly of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second magnetic pole members includes a sealing tin extending radially therefrom.
10. The polymeric flow body assembly of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second electrodes includes a sealing fin extending radially therefrom.
11. The polymeric flow body assembly of claim 1, wherein each of the first and second magnetic pole members includes a tapered end adjacent the measurement bore.
12. The polymeric flow body assembly of claim 1, wherein each of the first and second electrodes includes a tapered end adjacent the measurement bore.
13. The polymeric flow body assembly of claim 1, wherein each of the first and second electrodes is formed of stainless steel.
14. The polymeric flow body assembly of claim 1, further comprising a frame formed of the same polymer as the at least one of the first magnetic pole member, second magnetic pole member, first electrode and second electrode.

15. The polymeric flow body assembly of claim 1, and further comprising a magnetic return path formed of a magnetically compliant material embedded within a polymer.

16. A polymeric flow body assembly comprising: 5  
 a polymeric flow body having a measurement bore with a bore curvature;  
 a first coil mounted with respect to the measurement bore and disposed about a first magnetic pole member disposed to contact fluid within the measurement bore; 10  
 a second coil mounted with respect to the measurement bore and disposed about a second magnetic pole member, wherein the second magnetic pole member is also disposed to contact the fluid within the measurement bore and is configured to cooperate with the first 15  
 magnetic pole member to generate an electromagnetic field across the measurement bore;  
 a first and second electrode, each comprising polymer and a conductive material, wherein the first and second electrodes are configured to detect the electromagnetic 20  
 field across the measurement bore, wherein the first and second electrodes taper toward a center of the polymeric flow body assembly;  
 wherein each of the first and second electrodes has a curved end with the bore curvature; and 25  
 wherein each of the first and second magnetic pole members has a curved end with the bore curvature.

\* \* \* \* \*



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
**CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

PATENT NO. : 10,502,599 B2  
APPLICATION NO. : 15/086826  
DATED : December 10, 2019  
INVENTOR(S) : Steven B. Rogers et al.

Page 1 of 1

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

On the Title Page

Page 2, Item (56) Foreign Patent Documents, Line 4, delete "22006249359" and insert  
--2006249359--

In the Claims

Column 8, Line 52, Claim 9, delete "tin" and insert --fin--

Signed and Sealed this  
Eighth Day of November, 2022  
*Katherine Kelly Vidal*

Katherine Kelly Vidal  
*Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office*